

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Steve Fiske and J. Bradley Materick (Conservation Commission); John Morris, Jenille Smith, John Morris and David Mannix (CVFiber); Susan Green (Jaquith Library Director); Visitors: Adelaide Dumm (Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District)

At 5:34 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Zoom accounts, rent increases, library grant, zoning issue, picnic shelter, library porch, railroad bed

Public Comment: none

Minutes: approved the minutes of the November 1, 2022 Selectboard meeting

Covered Bridge: The Conservation Commission is interested in the management plan for the property. They are gathering information. There was discussion about the Cross Vermont Trail and whether there could be an easement on the property.

Grants: Adelaide Dumm explained that the WNRCD has a grant to improve aquatic habitat. She updated the Board on the projects that were discussed at an earlier meeting. Regarding the Laird Pond culvert, she found out that it was a man-made dam but with beaver activity. Many questions regarding the beavers will be addressed during the design phase but the presence of beavers does not make it ineligible. Boulders will also be addressed. Steve Fiske raised the concern that brown and rainbow trout may be able to move upstream if the barrier is removed, threatening native brook trout. Adelaide stated that there is data showing all three types of trout already present above and below the barrier. She indicated that rainbow and brown trout do not necessarily outcompete brook trout, but brook trout are more sensitive to water temperature. Steve indicated that there may not be browns and rainbows in Lye Brook. In order to have the waters managed as Class A, they need to have only brook trout present. He recommends that the projects should not proceed until there is data showing whether the other species are present above the barriers. He asked if there is a plan to control the sediment coming downstream if the barrier is removed. Adelaide indicated that sedimentation would be considered during the design. Steve indicated that there were no rainbow trout above the Holt Rd culvert in 2015. Adelaide contended that they have been there for a long time. He asked that the Conservation Commission be included in the review and management process.

Regarding the Holt Road culvert, Adelaide feels that Clean Water funds would be most appropriate for this project. The design will consider the impact on the dry hydrant for fire protection, so that the hydrant remains functional. The design would also consider flooding potential.

Regarding the Wells Brook on Hollister Hill Rd, the Fish & Wildlife service would like to see a riparian buffer planted and livestock exclusion fencing; these improvements would be at no cost

to the landowner (the Martin family).

Regarding the Maple Hill culvert, they are still exploring funding sources for this site. There will be grants available for design or implementation, likely next spring.

CVFiber: Jennille Smith indicated that the Broadband Board has extended the deadline for matching town contributions, to May 2023. Any dollar that Marshfield commits must be spent in Marshfield to benefit Marshfield. The money would not get service to people any sooner, but it could be used to lower connection fees for those that require underground connection. The Board explained that there are many competing needs for the money, and many of those needs will require tax increases if ARPA funds are not used. They are not willing to commit any funds at this time but they will keep it under consideration.

Library: Susan Green reported that the library tent has been vandalized, and a piece of the playground equipment has been removed or fell off and she is not sure who is in charge of the playground. The water fountain in the hallway sometimes sticks. The Town is not able to find a plumber to fix anything. She wants permission to install bookshelves in the hallway. The Board agreed. She asked for permission to apply for a grant for sustainability and resiliency for New England libraries. The grant would fund a new refrigerator and dishwasher, a wheelchair-accessible garden bed, and programs on sustainability. The Board supports this application.

Budget: Susan explained that the Trustees are proposing a budget that includes a 19.89% increase in the Library appropriation. They are proposing a new position at 10 hours/week for programming. Susan is going to cut her hours from 32 to 27 hours. They have proposed cost-of-living increases, and the budget as proposed does not include the new health insurance numbers. They are not advocating taking any money out of the investment funds this year because they want to show the true cost of operating the library.

Stranahan Stewardship Committee: The Selectboard received an application from Douglas Glover for membership on the committee. He is not a Marshfield resident but he is a frequent visitor and volunteer for the forest. Rich moved to appoint him subject to the Committee's positive recommendation. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Zoom: The Town has a zoom account for the Selectboard, and one for the Listers. Zoom does not license companies or towns; they only license individuals, so Bobbi's account could not be shared among other committees. They do not allow prepaid credit cards or check payments. The board approved a zoom account for the DRB.

OSC Rent: The Board voted a 7% increase this year, and future increases will be based on the CPI increase for the New England Region, October to October.

Picnic Shelter: Rich got in touch with a timber frame company but their rough estimate was far too expensive for consideration (\$80-90,000). Chris has been in contact with another timber framer, and he will be sending an estimate.

Library Porch: Rich suggested putting the picnic shelter, the library porch, the parking lot lights, and any other projects we have, out to bid at the same time, and then contractors could bid individual projects or a combination.

Railroad Bed: Rich is interested in trying to get the railroad bed in better shape. The Road Crew can grade it. The Board approved having Rich put in a letter of interest for a grant that might be able to be used for material. He suggested that it might be better to reclassify part of the bed as a legal trail rather than a class IV road.

Executive Session: Chris moved to enter executive session to discuss a legal issue. Rich seconded – all in favor. The Board returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the November 15, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
